

Amendments to the Claims:

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Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously canceled).

B1  
Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Previously canceled).

Claim 8 (Previously canceled).

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously canceled).

Claim 11 (original): A process of aggregating demands comprising the steps of:

validating incoming data so as to ensure said data is valid;  
processing said incoming data so as to extract an  
aggregation rule and at least one demand;  
processing said aggregation rule so as to apply said  
aggregation rule against said at least one demand to create at  
least one group based upon said aggregation rule;  
outputting output data indicative of said at least one  
group.

B1  
Claim 12 (original): A process of aggregating demands as in  
claim 11, wherein said incoming data is XML based.

Claim 13 (original): A process of aggregating demands as in  
claim 12, wherein said output data is XML based.

Claims 14-16 (withdrawn)

Claim 17 (Currently amended): A process of creating coalitions  
of demands comprising the steps of:

creating a process ID to identify a process through which  
said coalitions are to be created;

creating groups of demands based upon an application of an  
aggregation rule;

determining if any attributes of said demands are missing;

if said attributes are missing, automatically acquiring said attributes from another source;

assigning a unique group ID for each group created and assigning said process ID to said demands;

assigning said demands to said coalitions based upon said group IDs;

once a predetermined time period has passed, closing said coalitions.

B1  
Claim 18 (original): A process of creating coalitions of demands as in claim 17, further comprising the step of permitting manual addition of additional demands to said coalitions.

Claim 19 (original): A process of creating coalitions of demands as in claim 17, further comprising the step of permitting coalitions to be manually closed prior to said predetermined time period passing.

Claim 20 (Previously canceled)

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Currently amended): A process of grouping demands input into a system by a user into coalitions of demands

comprising the steps of:

inputting demands into a demand aggregation application;

analyzing said demands by applying an aggregation rule;

if said analysis of said demands indicates that said demands meet criteria of ~~one or more of said~~ a plurality of coalitions, proposing said plurality of ~~one or more of said~~ coalitions to said user;

permitting said user to assign said demands to a coalition of said plurality of ~~said one or more of said~~ coalitions;

B<sup>1</sup> if said analysis of said demands indicates that said demands do not meet criteria of ~~one or more~~ any of said coalitions, automatically creating a new coalition to accommodate said demands.

Claim 23 (original): A process of grouping demands as in claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

determining if any attributes of said demands are missing;  
and

if said attributes are missing, acquiring said attributes from another source.

Claim 24 (Previously amended): A process of aggregating demands according to an aggregation rule comprising the steps of:

collecting demands from a plurality of sources;

determining if any attributes of said demands are missing;

if said attributes are missing, acquiring said attributes  
from another source;

creating groups of demands based upon an application of  
said aggregation rule; and

B' forwarding said demands to a demand aggregation  
application.

Claim 25 (Previously canceled).

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